

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05398 280604Z

21

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 USPS-01 DHA-02 /086 W

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P R 271003Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5151

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5398

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS, ETEL, VS

SUBJ: MAIL SERVICE TO SVN

REF: STATE 203503

1. CHECK BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITH VIENTIANE POST OFFICE INDICATES THAT MAIL FOR SVN IS ACCEPTED HERE AND SENT ON IRREGULAR BASIS DIRECT TO SAIGON ON ROYAL AIR LAO. WE ARE MOST SKEPTICAL OF THIS REPORT, HOWEVER, SINCE ROYAL AIR LAO NOW FLIES TO SAIGON ONLY WHEN OPERATING UNDER UNHCR CHARTER, AND UNHCR PERSONNEL WHO "CONVEY" THOSE FLIGHTS HAVE NEVER MENTIONED CARRIAGE OF MAIL FOR LAO GOVERNMENT. SAME UNHCR PERSONNEL ARE ABSENT FOR REST OF THIS WEEK, BUT OFFICIAL OF UNHCR LAOS OFFICE SAYS HE TOO IS MOST SKEPTICAL OF PTT'S STATEMENT, HAS NEVER SEEN MAILBAGS BEING LOADED ABOARD UNHCR FLIGHTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 05398 280604Z

ETC.

2. NON-AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE VIA USSR GIVES US A BASIS FOR RENEWED REQUEST TO UNHCR WHICH, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HAS HERETOFORE DECLINED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH PRG FOR SEVERAL REASONS (PRG WANTS UNHCR TO PROVIDE ONLY THOSE SERVICES NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE, AND MAIL SERVICE THEORETICALLY WAS OR IS; UNHCR WAS REBUFFED WHEN IT TRIED TO HAND OVER AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED CARE OF "FRENCH EMBASSY, SAIGON"; AND ICRC WAS TOLD FLATLY IT COULD NOT CARRY MAIL, THEN FORCED TO TERMINATE ITS FLIGHTS FROM BANGKOK ALTOGETHER). REQUEST IS ONE WE CAN MAKE ONLY TO UNHCR/VIET-NAM PERSONNEL, AND WE WILL DO SO AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. FROM EXPERIENCE, WE KNOW THEY WOULD FIRST WANT TO TEST WATER CAREFULLY. (UNHCR/LAOS PERSONNEL ARE NOT COMPETENT IN THE MATTER.)

3. MEANWHILE, IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO DO SO, WE COULD TEST POST OFFICE ASSERTION BY RE-ENVELOPING ONE OR TWO OF THE LETTERS RECEIVED HERE FROM RELATIVES OF CAPTURED AMCITS AND ATTEMPT TO MAIL THEM. (IT COULD BE THAT MAIL FOR SAIGON IS ACCEPTED BUT IN FACT GOES BY WAY OF HANOI.) ASSUME ON BASIS PRIOR CONVERSATIONS WITH UNHCR/VIET-NAM OFFICIALS THAT BEST ADDRESSEE FOR OUTER ENVELOPE WOULD BE SVN RED CROSS. WE COULD PUT APPROPRIATE NOTATIONS ON INNER ENVELOPES REGARDING LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF AMCIT ADDRESSEES. PLEASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POSTAL SERVICE
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Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D750297-0869
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750811/aaaaajqi.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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